

Farming and Housekeeping.

CATTLE DISEASE.

Great excitement has existed for some weeks past in the principal cattle markets, and along the thoroughfares leading to them, on account of a dreadful scourge which has raged among cattle. "This excitement can hardly be wondered at," says the *Prairie Farmer*, "when it is estimated that \$300,000 will not pay the losses in Champaign county alone, in Illinois, within a comparatively brief period."

The disease, after all the investigation given it, is attributed altogether to the introduction of Texas cattle, which, strange to say, exhibit no indications of the disease themselves. Another important fact, which leads to the hope that the scourge will be limited in its effects, is, that it is not communicable from cattle that take it from the Texans. Those and those only that travel in the same track, and feed on the same pastures, or are put into the same enclosures with the Texas cattle, take the disease, and it's course, it may be hoped, will be a short one.

Another important fact is mentioned with confidence, viz: that the person of the disease does not affect either the meat or the milk of the cattle suffering under it—a comfort to such as may be ignorantly obliged to consume the beef, which since the appearance of the disease in Illinois, has been run off to market in great quantities.

Professor Gamgee, Principal of the Albert Veterinary College, London, being in the West when the disease broke out, has given it special attention, and makes a report to the Packers Association, Chicago, from which we quote the following:

"The farmers of our country would call this disease 'black water.' It is very similar to the 'barn' of Aberdeen-shire, and it has been described occurring in various parts of Europe. There are, however, some very important features in the outbreak we are at present studying, and it is essential I should state distinctly that which I consider to be matter of fact, and distinguish this from what at present may be pure theory, though opinion of a tolerably decided character can already be formed."

In the first place, the malady follows the track of Texan cattle, and is not found beyond. The Texan cattle are themselves healthy, and we have failed yet to see a diseased one. Native cattle do not communicate the disease to other native cattle, and sucking calves continue to suckle their sick mothers without contracting the disease. In one case a calf suckled its dam until the latter died; it was then placed with a cow that also died, and lastly, with a third one that succumbed too, without indicating the slightest symptoms of ill health.

Secondly, I consider that there is no specific animal poison causing the spread of the disease. It is not a malady belonging to the class of true plagues, or epidemics; it has a local origin, from cattle grazing on certain lands in Texas, and if you took cattle South, and grazed them where the Texan steers enjoy perfect health, from being acclimated and accustomed to peculiar pastures, you would find the cattle of the North dying in the South, as they are doing at present in the State of Illinois.

It is not an uncommon circumstance for animals, which are themselves healthy, being the carriers of disease-producing elements, though there is something unusually virulent discharged by the Texan herds, and discharged only during the summer months.

This malady has been classed in Europe by some authors, among the forms of anthrax, or carbuncular fevers, which originate spontaneously when there is insufficient heat on ill-drained, retentive soils, and widely over the marsh lands of Central, Southern, and Eastern Europe.

But, gentlemen, it is a consolation to know that there is not the slightest danger of any evil arising from the drinking of the milk of the sick cows, and I should have no scruples in eating the flesh. They are not poisoned by any specific virus calculated to do injury to men or animals, and in laying before you a theory of the origin of this disease, I am strengthened by facts which I have gleaned during investigations of similar disorders in Europe.

About spring time and early summer, in all probability, the Texan cattle, as our own do in some parts of Scotland, the young, succulent shoots of peculiar trees, highly charged with astringent principles. On unbroken ground, highly charged with moisture, and adjoining wood lands, there are, as the hot weather sets in, many things sprouting, which animals will not touch later in the season; and in the motto of Texas there is the live oak which grows in the Gulf States, where indeed cattle are reared which have been known in times past to disseminate this disorder, for the cattle of Florida are dangerous north of a certain line, as the steers of Texas. From this peculiar feed, therefore, the animals get their systems impregnated with materials which do not destroy the stock accustomed to a special diet, and give a grain feeding, but which bear the stamp of the urine and the excrement, induces the "black water," or peculiar form of "ensooth hematuria," which is now killing the cattle of this and adjoining States."

SALT AND LIME TO PREVENT GRAIN FROM LODGING.—A correspondent says:—"Two years since I noticed in one of my agricultural papers, that a mixture of salt and lime would stiffen the straw of the growing wheat, and to a certain extent prevent it from lodging. I resolved to try the experiment. I made a mixture in the proportion of two parts (weight) of lime to one of salt. I permitted the mixture to lie in the heap some three or four weeks before applying it. I then spread it over a part of a field at the rate of a ton and a half to the acre. The result was, that in that part of the field, my wheat all stood well, while in the remainder it all went down before the heads were entirely filled. I need not tell you how much easier the former was to cut than the latter. The yield was decidedly better, and in addition to these advantages, I found the clover, on the part to which the mixture had been applied, more and finer than where it had not been." *N.Y. Ag. and Farm Journal.*

CARROTS propose to build a million miles worth of churches this year. They are greatly needed in that city.

LARGE BEECHES are harbored if taken in moderation. For some folks moderation is about thirty glasses.

SIXTH ANNUAL FAIR.

OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, TO BE HELD AT GETTYSBURG,

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, September 22d, 23d and 24th, 1868.

LIST OF PREMIUMS.

Horse and Mule Department.

Class 1.

Horses, Mares and Cobs for Heavy Draught.

Best stallion over 4 years.....

second best.....

best stallion between 2 and 4 years.....

best stallion between 3 and 5 years.....

best mare colt between 2 and 3 years.....

best mare colt between 3 and 4 years.....

best mare colt under 1 year.....

Class 2.

Blooded Stock.

Best stallion over 4 years.....

second best.....

best stallion between 2 and 4 years.....

best stallion between 3 and 5 years.....

best mare colt between 2 and 3 years.....

best mare colt between 3 and 4 years.....

best mare colt under 1 year.....

Class 3.

Blooded Dray.

Best stallion over 4 years.....

second best.....

best stallion between 2 and 4 years.....

best stallion between 3 and 5 years.....

best mare colt between 2 and 3 years.....

best mare colt under 1 year.....

Class 4.

Blooded Cattle.

Best bull over 3 years.....

second best.....

best stallion over 3 years.....

second best.....

best stallion under 1 year.....

Class 5.

Blooded Oxen.

Best bull over 3 years.....

second best.....

best stallion over 3 years.....

second best.....

best stallion under 1 year.....

Class 6.

Matured Calves.

Best bull over 3 years.....

second best.....

best stallion over 3 years.....

second best.....

best stallion under 1 year.....

Class 7.

Poultry.

Best hen over 3 years.....

second best.....

best cockerel over 3 years.....

second best.....

best hen under 1 year.....

Class 8.

Matured Hens.

Best hen over 3 years.....

second best.....

best cockerel over 3 years.....

second best.....

best hen under 1 year.....

Class 9.

Machinery and Implements.

Best machine for farm work.....

best hay carriage or ladders.....

best seed planter.....

best harrow.....

best two horse plough.....

best scythes.....

best scythe scissor.....

best scythe scissor.....